

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 1999      LB 476

1180-1182 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Smith would like to announce the following guests are visiting the Legislature; 6 eighth graders from the Cedar Canyon School in Gering, happens to be Senator Smith's alma mater, not your last one I hope. They are located in the north balcony. Would you please rise so we can recognize and welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 476, a bill originally introduced by Senator Janssen and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 14 of this year. At that time referred to Judiciary. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending. Mr. President. (See AM0761 found on page 1044 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Janssen, you're recognized to open on LB 476.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I wish to introduce LB 476 for your consideration. I will make my comments fairly brief since I'm sure we will be hearing from several individuals on this bill. LB 476 would allow citizens who pass a background check to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon. Forty-three other states currently have some form of concealed weapon legislation which makes Nebraska one of only seven states that does not. I believe that Nebraskans who receive approval from the State Patrol should be allowed to protect themselves with a concealed weapon. This bill is extremely detailed and prohibitive in the application process. Just some of the people who would be denied a permit are those who have been convicted of an offense involving violence against another person, felony or a misdemeanor, those who have been committed voluntarily or involuntarily to a residential treatment facility, and those who have been convicted of stalking or subject to a protection order. There are many others who would be disqualified and they are detailed in the bill. All applicants must take a State Patrol approved course which would instruct them in the safe handling and storage of a firearm. This is not a requirement in the purchase of a gun. I believe in the requirement that an owner of a gun